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NORTH KOREAN INDUSTRIAL TECHNICIANS' LEAGUE
AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH KOREA

The North Korean Industrial Technicians' League, which embraces all the industrial technicians in North Korea, is an important member of the Democratic Front for Unification of the Fatherland. It was organized after the 1945 liberation to unite all the technicians in North Korea and improve their technological skills.

The league has contributed greatly toward the postwar industrial reconstruction of North Korea. It has mobilized its members to carry out various postwar reforms planned by the North Korean People's Committee to achieve the People's Economic Program. To stimulate technological research, the league sponsored research contests in the field of invention and design.

The league pays close attention to the technological education of its members, supervises six industrial night colleges, and publishes a scientific organ. By the end of 1947, some 2,000 high-grade technicians were licensed by the North Korean People's Committee.

Immediately following the 1945 liberation of Korea the Industrial Technicians' Association was organized by the technicians in North Korea. However, to develop North Korea along democratic lines and to unite all the industrial technicians in North Korea, a broader and stronger organization was needed. Consequently, in April 1946, the Industrial Technicians' Association was reorganized into the North Korean Industrial Technicians' League. Its membership included all the industrial technicians in North Korea.

The North Korean Industrial Technicians' League, as an organization affiliated with the Democratic Front for Unification of the Fatherland, mobilized the valuable skills and patriotic enthusiasm of all technicians, to carry out various postwar democratic reforms set forth by the North Korean People's Committee.

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In October 1946, the league created nine special committees on mining, electricity (low-voltage and high-voltage groups), machinery, construction, irrigation engineering, architecture, chemistry, and textiles. The Industrial Technicians' League also reinforced the strength of its local organizations.

The member technicians of the league accomplished tremendous results in solving difficult problems of industrial technology, particularly in the repair and rebuilding of machines and plants necessary for increasing production. New ideas and inventions continually evolved as the People's Economic Program progressed and the technicians became increasingly enthusiastic about technological research.

In July 1947, the league's branch at the Hungnam People's Factory announced to all industrial technicians in North Korea 15 specific research contests in the fields of invention and design, with the aim of exceeding the quotas originally set up by the People's Economic Program for these fields.

The technological competition resulted in a constant stream of inventions and new designs in manufacturing, transportation, communications, and other fields.

The following are a few examples of many technological improvements achieved: production of alcohol from carob; discovery of a paraffin substitute; production of copper pipe, copper wire, copper plate and silicon steel plate; production of pistons and millstones; success in the test-manufacturing of a pressure roller; invention of a wooden telephone receiver and transmitter, and of a battery-operated switchboard; manufacture of parts for an automatic switchboard; remodeling of teletype machines which print in the Korean language; improvements in portable telephones; and remodeling single switchboards into multiple switchboards.

The successful production of alumina cement made possible the production of higher quality briquette. The success in manufacturing machines and machine parts and the revamping of the production systems assured results even better than those called for by the People's Economic Program.

The nine special committees made great technological contributions in their respective fields. In the restoration of the Sariwon Textile Mill, the Textile Committee organized a reconstruction group to rebuild the weaving machines. Three hundred weaving machines were rebuilt, thus increasing the output by 280 percent over that at the beginning of 1946. The task of restoring and putting into operation the P'yongyang Chemical Textile Mill, the only one of its kind in North Korea, began in December 1947. A large number of technicians were mobilized for this task.

Under decision No 89 of the North Korean People's Committee, 2,196 high-grade technicians were selected and licensed on the basis of nationwide examinations given by that committee in February and November 1947.

The league pays close attention to the technological education of its members, to the development of industrial technology in the factories, and to the study of scientific theory. The six industrial night colleges operated by the league have a current enrollment of 2,000 students and have published over 30 technological textbooks. The league's organ, *Taejung Kwahak* (Science for the Masses) the general working public, is doing an outstanding job.

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